

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.114 is respectfully requested, noting that this Amendment is filed as a Submission with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) on even date herewith.

Claims 1, 4 and 24 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 3, 5-23 and 25-26 remain in this application. Claims 2, 5, 8, 15 and 25 have been amended. In light of the aforementioned amendments and following remarks, applicant earnestly solicits favorable consideration.

Request for Interview:

As previously discussed with the examiner, applicant requests an interview with the examiner at his earliest convenience. During the interview, applicant would like to discuss the features of the claimed invention and how these features distinguish over the cited art.

Independent Claim 2:

Applicant respectfully submits that at least the following feature of independent claim 2 is not disclosed or fairly suggested by the cited references:

wherein said slot is fully or partly open at at least a bow or a stern or a port side or a starboard side of said single hull unit.

None of the cited references disclose or suggest this feature.

Independent Claim 5:

Independent claim 5 recites:

wherein said slot is fully or partly open at a stern and closed at a bow of said single hull unit, or said slot is fully or partly closed at a stern and open at a bow of said single hull unit....

Applicant respectfully submits that the above feature is not disclosed or rendered obvious by the cited references.

Independent Claim 8:

Independent claim 8 recites:

a single hull unit having at least one elongated, substantially vertical slot extending approximately the length of said single hull unit....

Applicant respectfully submits that the above feature is not disclosed or rendered obvious by the cited references.

Independent Claim 15:

Independent claim 15 recites:

wherein said slot extends transversely across at least most of the width of said single hull unit....

Applicant respectfully submits that the above feature is not disclosed or rendered obvious by the cited references.

Application No.: 10/565,798
Art Unit: 3617

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.114
Attorney Docket No.: 052895

In view of the foregoing, entry of the present amendments and examination of the above-identified application on the merits in due course, are respectfully requested.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge any fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

/WILLIAM F. WESTERMAN/

William F. Westerman
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 29,988
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

WFW/dlt/rer